Drought Status and Outlook

Latest Drought Information Statement

December 31, 2021

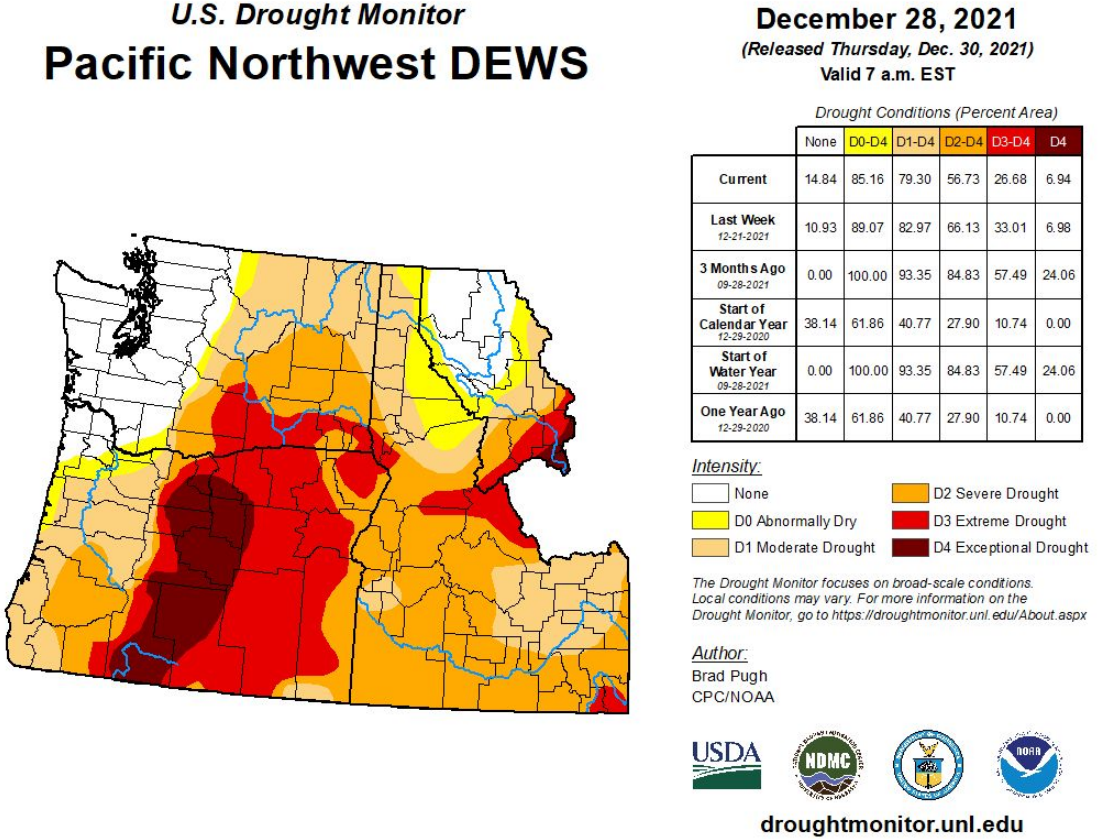
National Weather Service Spokane

Severe and Extreme Drought for the Inland NW

Drought conditions continue to show improvements in the last month across the Inland Northwest, especially extreme eastern Washington and the Idaho Panhandle.

- Extreme (D3) drought continues to shrink in southeast WA
- Severe (D2) decreased in the ID Panhandle

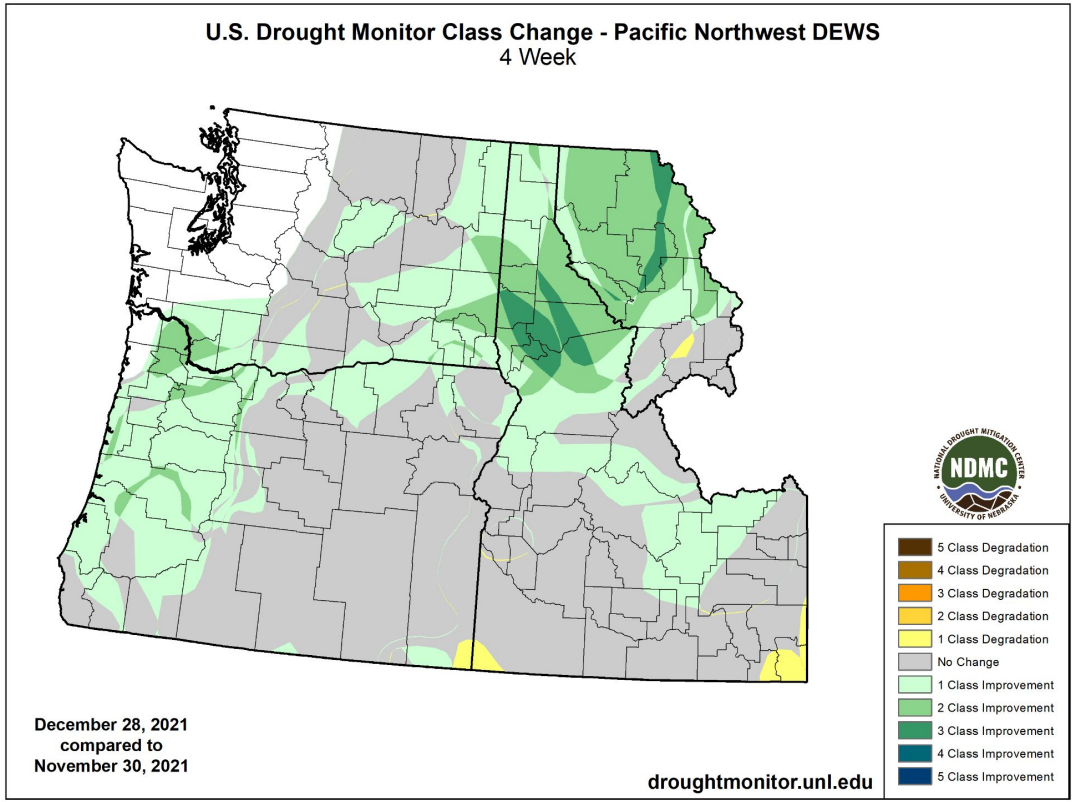
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/



One Month Drought Change

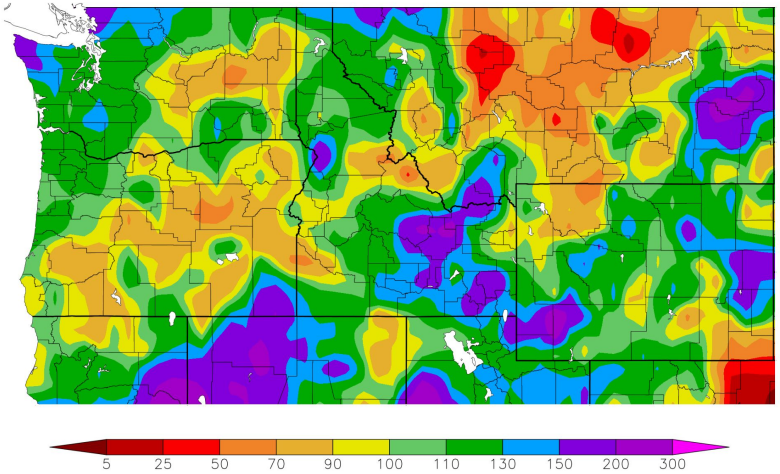
Above normal precipitation this fall increased soil moisture and streamflows which helped decrease the drought severity across the Inland NW. The recent rounds of winter snow and colder temperatures aided in building the mountain snowpack.

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx



Last 90 Days

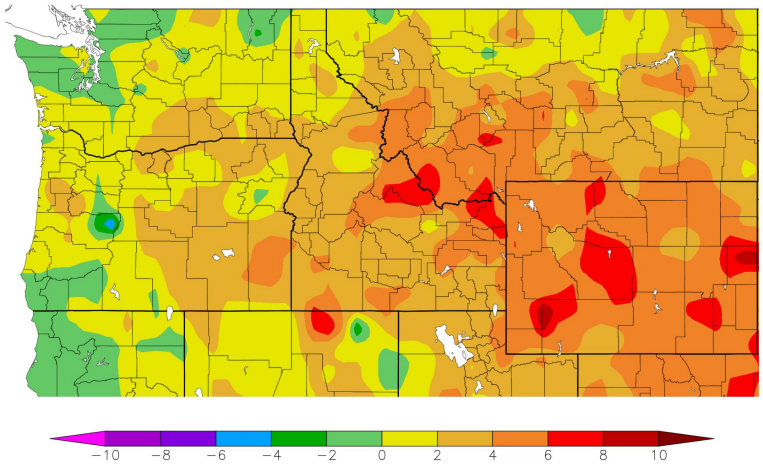
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/2/2021 – 12/30/2021



Generated 12/31/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Near to above normal precipitation was found across much of the Inland Northwest. The wetter areas were near the Cascades, northern mountains and Idaho Panhandle.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/2/2021 – 12/30/2021

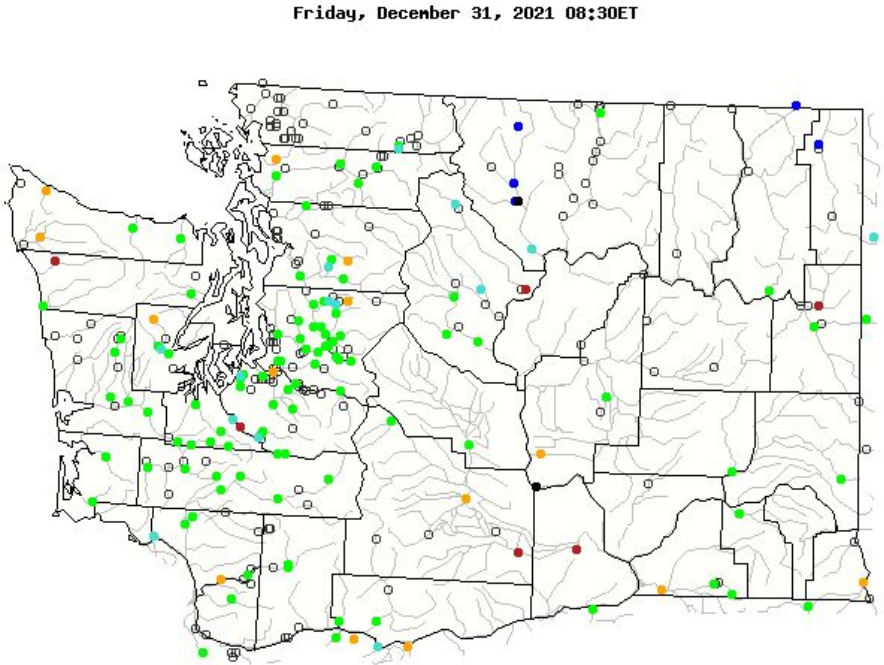


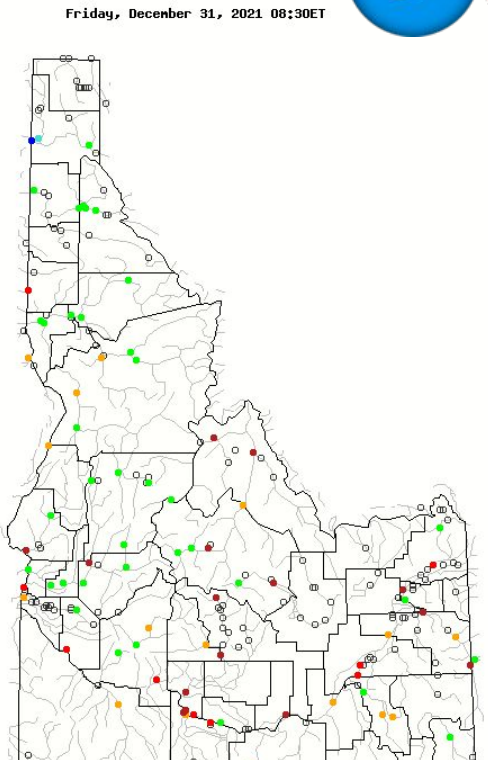
Generated 12/31/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Temperatures have been running near to above normal region-wide, despite the cold snap in late December.

https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps

Drought Impacts - Streamflows



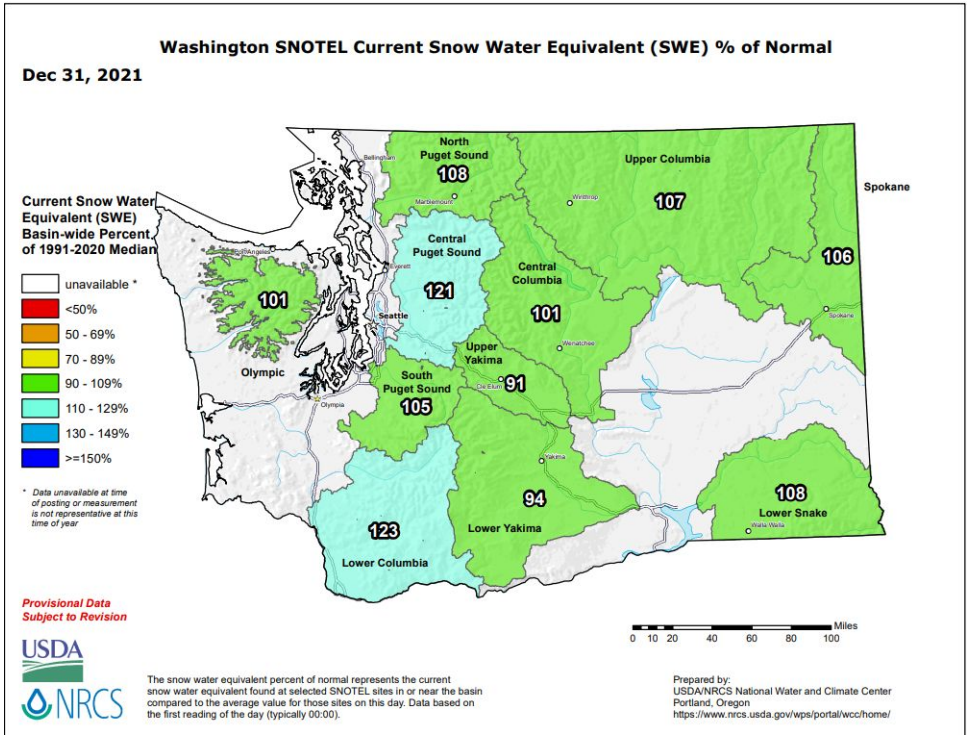


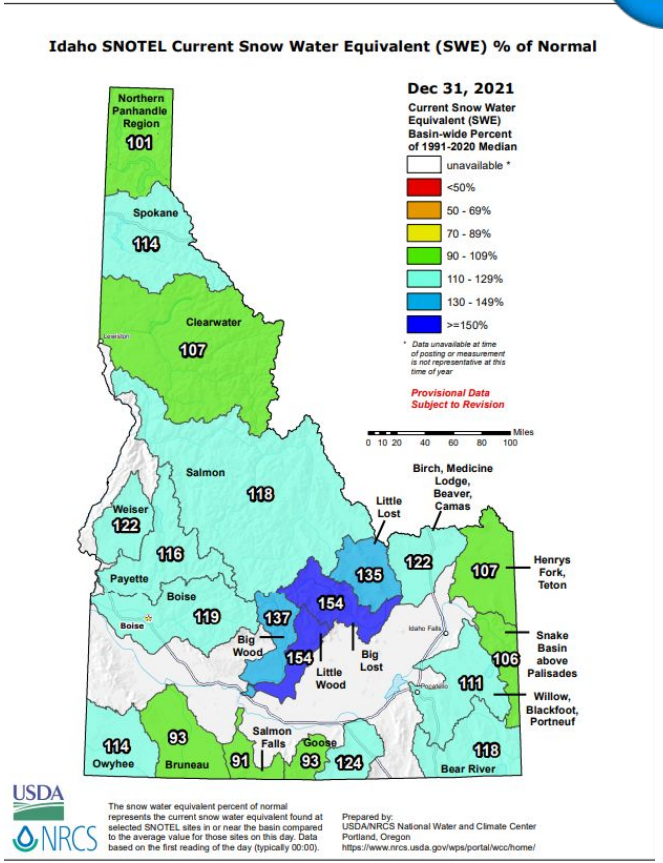
USGS

Stream flows have returned to near normal levels across the Inland NW after record low flows late this summer. Above normal flows remain over parts of north central Washington, while near to below normal flows stretch across the Columbia Basin, into the Palouse, Spokane, and lower Snake river basins.

https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Drought Impacts - Mountain Snowpack



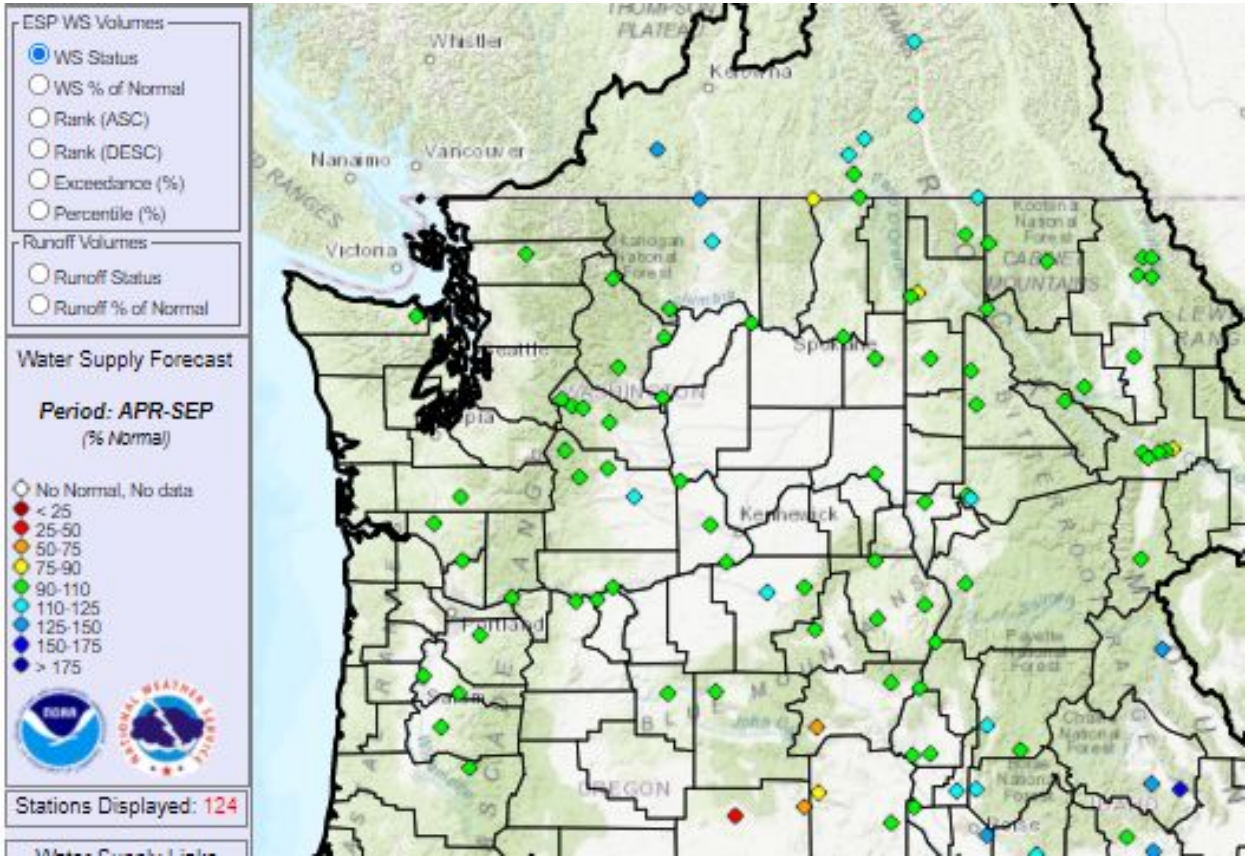


Mountain snowpack had an early start across the northern Cascades this fall. The colder temperatures in December helped the snowpack build elsewhere. . https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/

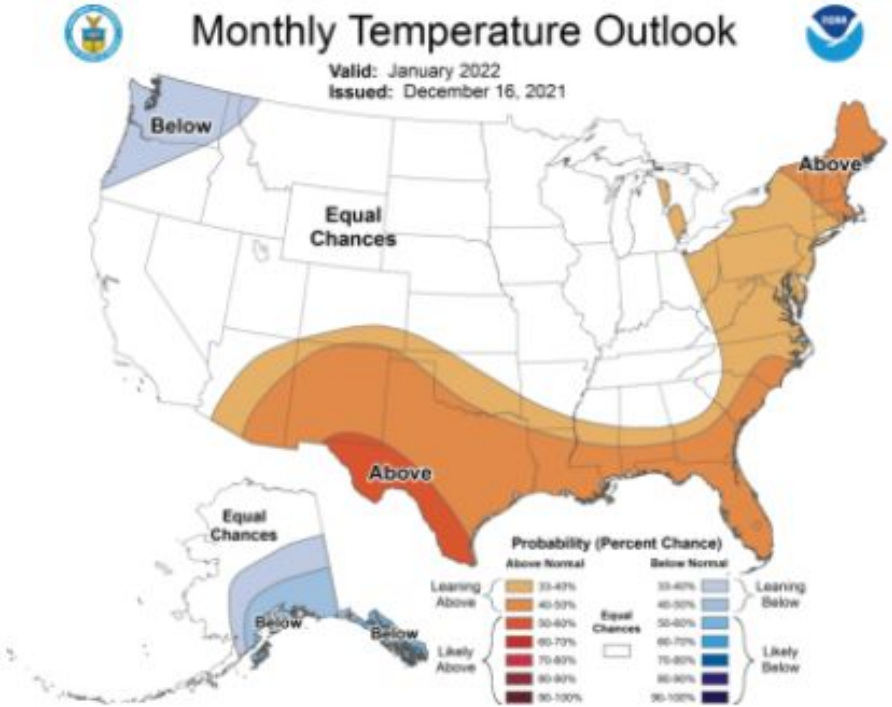
NWRFC Water Supply Forecast

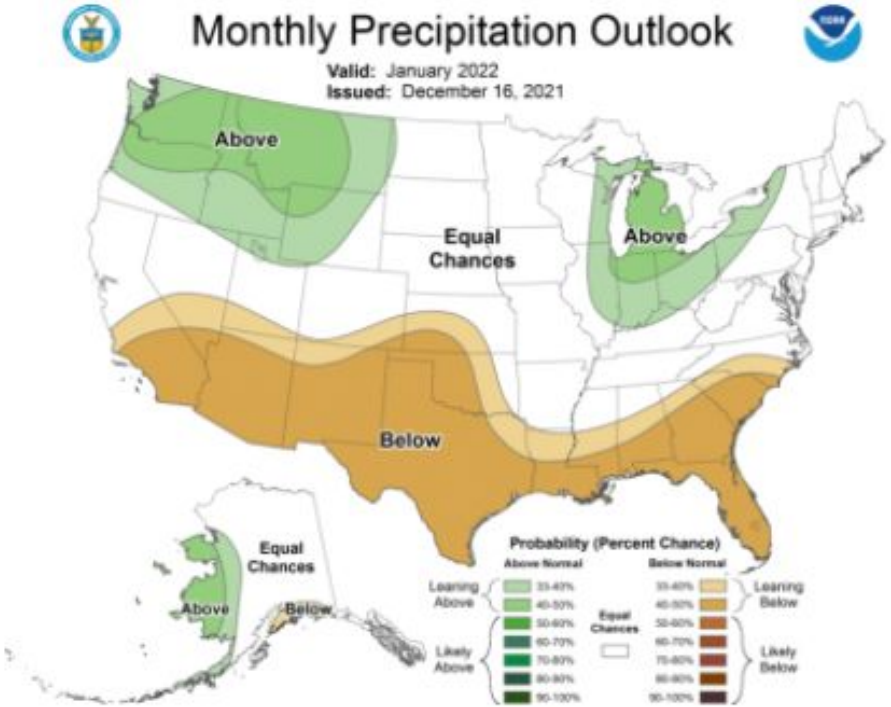
October 1st marked a new Water Year. The updated water supply forecast looks optimistic for the coming year with most areas around normal for 2022.

https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/



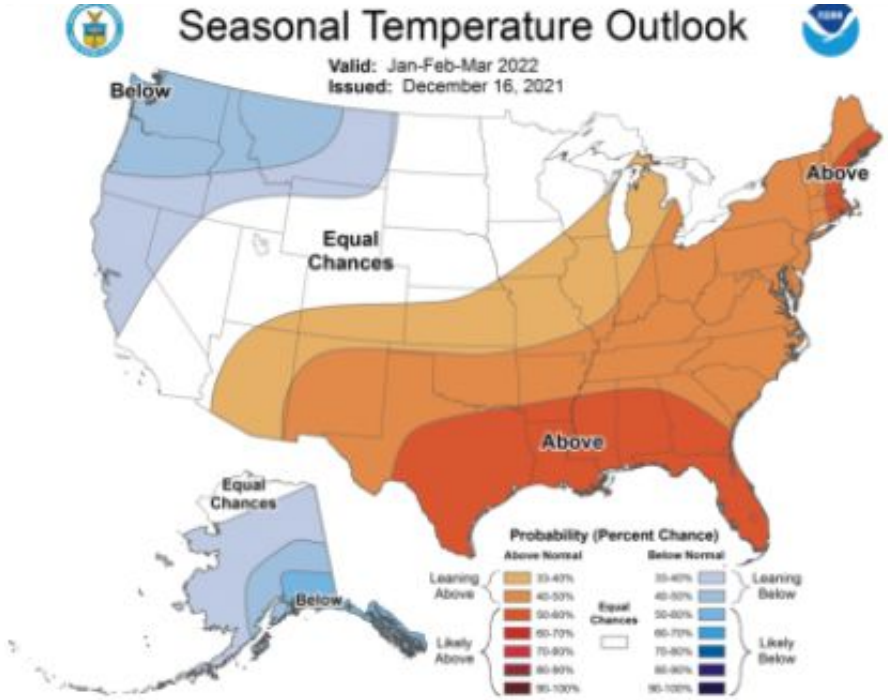
CPC One Month Outlook ~ January

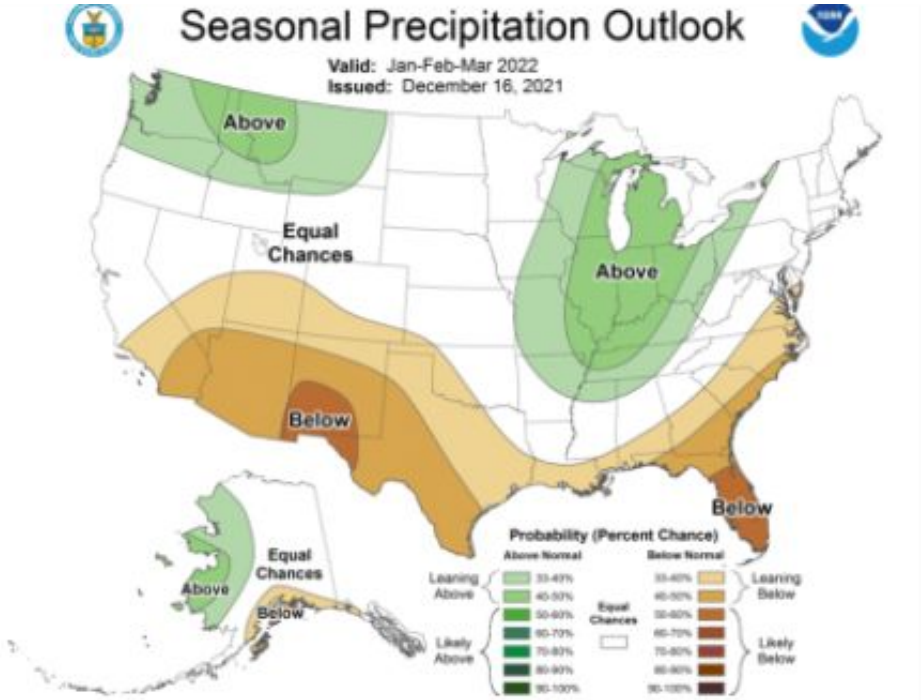




.The Climate Prediction Center`s outlook for January favors below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the Inland NW. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

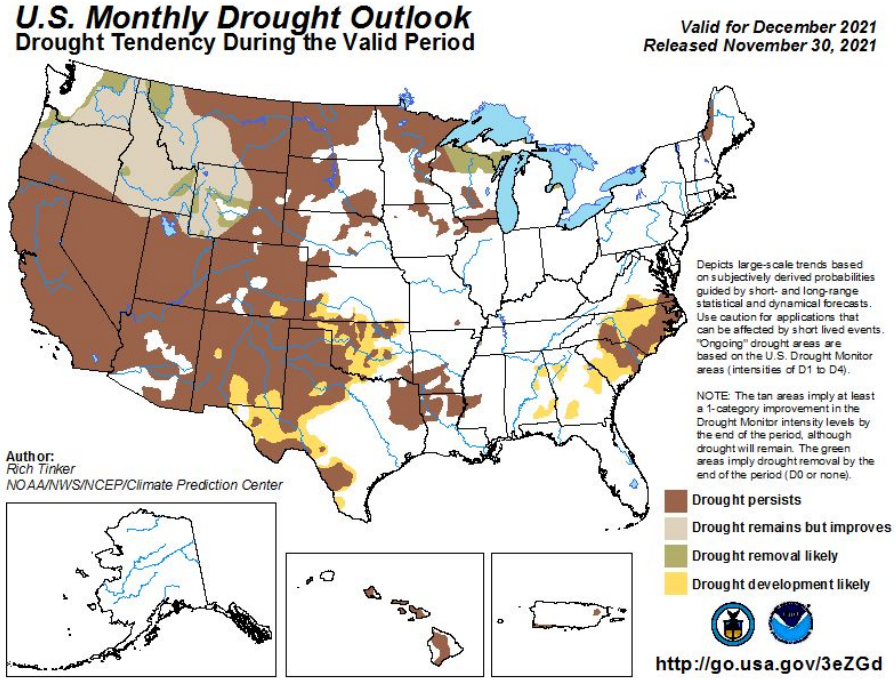
CPC Three Month Outlook ~ December to February

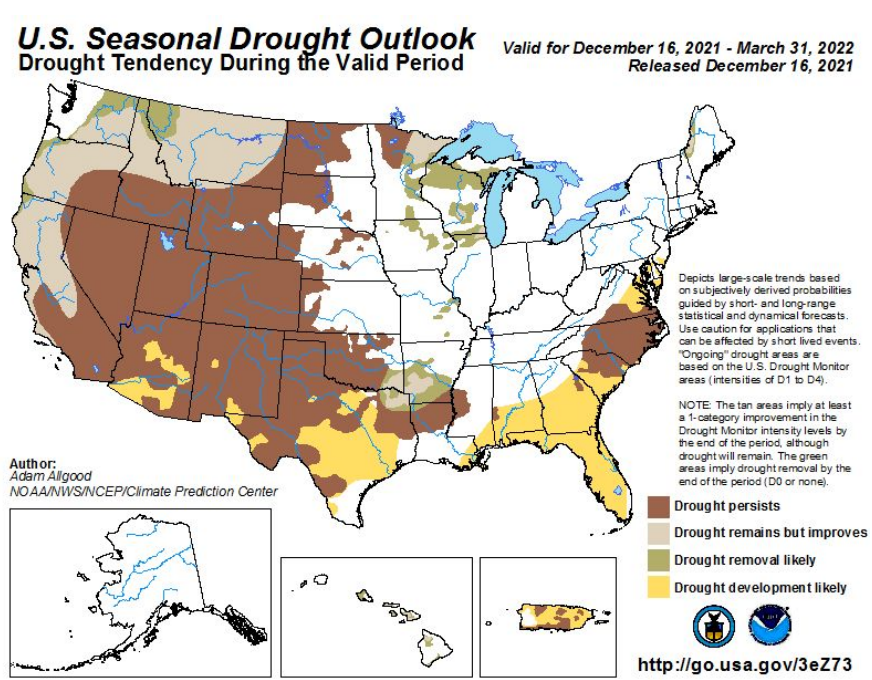




The three month outlook for January to March 2022 continues the trend of below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

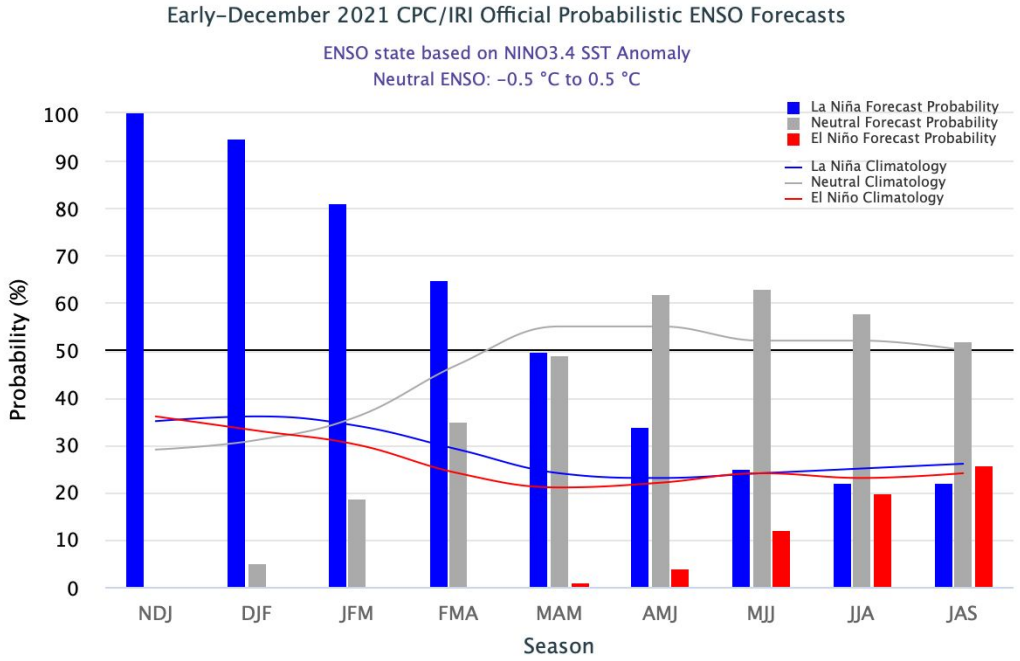
Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook

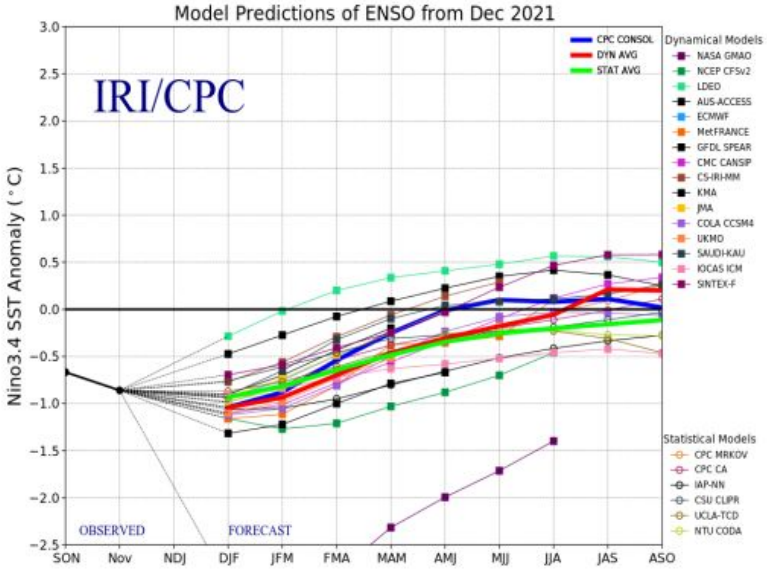




The Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlooks both suggest drought conditions will remain but show some improvements. There is a potential for some drought removal across parts of north central, northeast Washington and even the northern Idaho Panhandle in the coming months. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

La Nina Outlook





A La Nina Advisory remains in effect for this winter season. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

Drought Summary

- Slow improvements continue across the Inland NW with shrinking of Extreme (D3) Drought in southeast Washington and Severe (D2) Drought in Idaho Panhandle.

- The Seasonal Outlook favors below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for January and through March 2022. This favors improving drought conditions across the region in the months to come.

- As for drought impacts, stream flows have returned normal. Mountain snowpack has increased in the last month due to the cold temperatures and rounds of snow.

- Please report any drought conditions or impacts to NWS Spokane at nws.spokane@noaa.gov or through the National Drought Mitigation Center at https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/

Drought Related Web Sites

U.S. Drought Portal: www.drought.gov

US Drought Monitor: www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Western Region Climate Center: /www.wrcc.dri.edu

Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Interagency Coordination Center: www.nifc.gov

USGS Streamflows: www.waterwatch.usgs.gov

NWS Water Supply Forecasts: www.nwrfc.noaa.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers: www.usace.army.mil

NRCS Water Supply Forecasts: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

Idaho Department of Water Resources: www.idwr.idaho.gov

Idaho Climate Office: www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services

Washington Department of Ecology: www.ecology.wa.gov

Washington Climate Office: www.climate.washington.edu

NWS Spokane: www.weather.gov/Spokane